

Saving Historic Lighthouses by Changing Ownership

Contributed by the U.S. General Services Administration, Coast Guard, National Park Service, and recent updates by the AIA Knowledge Resources staff.

Revised February 2007

The AIA collects and disseminates Best Practices as a service to AIA members without endorsement or recommendation. Appropriate use of the information provided is the responsibility of the reader.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the National Park Service have successfully transferred the ownership of 300 lighthouses under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA). A brief overview of the successes of the NHLPA is provided.

COOPERATION TOWARD A COMMON GOAL

The National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA) Pilot Program Partnership conceived, developed, and implemented a successful model for an enduring National Historic Lighthouse conveyance program. The NHLPA program is administered through the combined efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), and the National Park Service (NPS). Ownership of these properties is transferred to state or local governments or nonprofit organizations that become responsible for maintaining and preserving them.

The process developed by the partnership under the NHLPA established a framework for divesting the federal government of these historic assets efficiently and effectively while meeting the goals of each participating federal agency. The pilot program reduced the transfer time for a lighthouse from 334 days to 225 days in fiscal year 2002.

The pilot program successfully transferred ownership of 300 lighthouses under NHLPA. In addition to placing these historic properties in the care of local stewards who are better able to care for them, the federal government has benefited from a permanent elimination of \$300 million in annual maintenance costs. A second, more ambitious round of transfers is underway.

According to the NPS Web site, in 2006 nine lighthouses throughout the United States were available. Of the nine lighthouses that were open to change hands in 2006, eight were under application review in February 2007.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the NPS Web site:

www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/nhlpa/nhlpa.htm#info

RESOURCES

More Best Practices

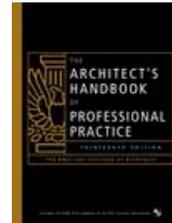
The following AIA Best Practices provide additional information related to this topic:

- 11.08.14 Marketing Historic Properties for TV and Film
- 16.01.02 Green Roof Design

For More Information on This Topic

See also "Historic Preservation," by Robert Burley, FAIA, and Dan L. Peterson, AIA, *The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice*, 13th edition, Chapter 18, p. 627.

See also the 14th edition of the *Handbook*, which can be ordered from the AIA Bookstore by calling 800-242-3837 (option 4) or by email at bookstore@aia.org.



Feedback

The AIA welcomes member feedback on Best Practice articles. To provide feedback on this article, please contact bestpractices@aia.org.

Key Terms

- Practice
- Historic preservation